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THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER

**An Outdated Process Imperils Staff,
and the Justice System**



2022 – 2023

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE-CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER (IRC)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.1

The entire AJIS system must be replaced with a modern information system that utilizes data integration techniques. This will provide secure, fast, accurate, and complete information for the staff and managers, and provide fair and timely treatment for the inmates. Until the information system is modernized, the IRC will not be able to improve its performance significantly. All other improvements are dependent on putting in place a system that can interact with the similar systems of other relevant agencies, especially the Court.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation will be implemented. LASD is currently engaged with the AJIS vendor, Syscon Justice Systems, in a gap analysis exercise to validate that the latest version of their solution platform will be able to meet all business requirements. Pending completion in September 2023, LASD will notify the BOS of its intention to enter into sole source negotiations for a new agreement with the vendor for implementation of the modern replacement system.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.2

The County should develop an information system capable of receiving data and communications from the Court. It is imperative that these two systems communicate because a real time, interactive system will significantly decrease the time that inmates are held at the IRC.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation will be implemented. The intended modern AJIS platform will be capable of receiving data from the Court's new Tyler Technologies Odyssey system. Because Odyssey is currently projected to go-live this year (November), LASD should also work with the Courts on developing an application programming interface to allow information transfers from Odyssey to the current iteration of AJIS.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.3

Whether a new system is built in-house or contracted out, staff must be included in every step of the design, development, testing, and implementation. If staff needs are shortchanged, the project will suffer ongoing deficiencies, and the IRC will not see maximum improvement.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation will be implemented. The project should be recognized as and prioritized by the LASD executives for the critical and significant undertaking that it is. A steering committee for AJIS modernization will be convened comprising all the relevant and impacted stakeholders in November when the Sheriff initiates the AJIS replacement project. Participation by both business and technical staff in all facets of this endeavor is key to achieving the desired outcomes.



SELWYN HOLLINS
Director

County of Los Angeles
INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
1100 North Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90063

"Trusted Partner and Provider of Choice"

Telephone: (323) 267-2101
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July 20, 2023

To: Cheri Thomas
Chief Executive Office

From: Selwyn Hollins 
Director

2022 – 2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY RESPONSE

Attached is the response to the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report for the Inmate Reception Center recommendations 6.1, 6.2, 6.3. Internal Services Department collaborated with Sheriff's Department and the CEO-Chief Information Officer on the response.

If there are additional questions, please contact Mirian Avalos, General Manager of Information Technology Services at (323) 443-6305, via email: MSAvalos@isd.lacounty.gov.

SH:MO:MA:rk

Attachment

c: Sheriff's Department
CEO-Chief Information Officer

RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.1

The entire AJIS system must be replaced with a modern information system that utilizes data integration techniques. This will provide SECURE, fast, accurate, and complete information for the staff and managers, and provide fair and timely treatment for the inmates. Until the information system is modernized, the IRC will not be able to improve its performance significantly. All other improvements are dependent on putting in place a system that can interact with the similar systems of other relevant agencies, especially the Court.

RESPONSE

The Internal Services Department (ISD) agrees with this recommendation. This recommendation will not be implemented by ISD as jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the LASD. ISD defers to the LASD response.

LASD is actively involved with a vendor to initiate the replacement of the legacy AJIS system. The objective is to implement a contemporary system that aligns with current needs and requirements. A response to the BOS is pending the completion of a gap analysis. That analysis is expected to conclude in September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.2

The County should develop an information system capable of receiving data and communications from the Court. It is imperative that these two systems communicate because a real time, interactive system will significantly decrease the time that inmates are held at the IRC.

RESPONSE

ISD agrees with this recommendation. This recommendation will not be implemented by ISD as jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the LASD. ISD defers to the LASD's response. It is imperative for LASD to incorporate communication interfaces as part of the system requirements. Collaboratively working with the Court to establish essential communication interfaces for their upcoming Tyler Odyssey system, scheduled to go live in November 2023, is critical.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.3

Whether a new system is built in-house or contracted out, staff must be included in every step of the design, development, testing, and implementation. If staff needs are shortchanged, the project will suffer ongoing deficiencies, and the IRC will not see maximum improvement.

RESPONSE

ISD agrees with this recommendation. This recommendation will not be implemented by ISD as jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the LASD. ISD defers to the LASD's response.

We recommend the formation of a project steering committee comprising key stakeholders from all business and technical sectors within the organization. Ensuring the participation of well-suited representatives at all organizational levels throughout each project phase will be instrumental in achieving success by effectively addressing business and technical requirements.

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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Holly J. Mitchell
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District



**Chief
Executive
Office.**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1101 ceo.lacounty.gov

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Fesia A. Davenport

August 31, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport *[Signature]*
Chief Executive Officer *For*

2022-2023 LOS ANGELES CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

Attached are responses to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Final Report. We are responding to specific recommendations dealing with the following sections:

- Aging Out: Transitional Aged Youth
- All Aboard: Is Metro Rail on Track
- Civil Grand Jury Compensation
- Election Operations
- Have We M.E.T.? Mental Health Evaluation Teams and How They Work
- Housing Vouchers For Low income and Homeless Angelenos
- The Inmate Reception Center: An Outdated Process Imperils Staff, Inmates, and the Justice System
- Juvenile Justice CYA
- Lack of Housing: The Social Injustice of the 21st Century
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Workers Compensation
- Medi-Cal Reimbursement: The Final Resolution of an Ongoing Issue
- Proposition 19: Implementation and Related Matters
- Sheriff's Operations: Examining Transparency, Accountability, and Community Policing within the LASD
- Storm Water Capture and Wastewater Reuse
- Zero Emissions: Air Quality Monitoring

Attachment A represents the Chief Executive Officer's responses; Attachments B through V represent the departments' responses; and Attachment W represents a matrix of the questions and responses from each department.



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Each Supervisor
August 31, 2023
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding our responses, please contact me, or your staff may contact Cheri Thomas, by phone at (213) 974-1326 or by email at cthomas@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:CT:md

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
District Attorney
Assessor
Sheriff
Auditor-Controller
Children and Family Services
Fire
Health Services
Human Resources
Internal Services
Mental Health
Probation
Public Health
Public Social Services
Public Works
Regional Planning
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County Development Authority
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER (IRC)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.1

The entire Automated Justice Information System (AJIS) system must be replaced with a modern information system that utilizes data integration techniques. This will provide SECURE, fast, accurate, and complete information for the staff and managers, and provide fair and timely treatment for the inmates. Until the information system is modernized, the IRC will not be able to improve its performance significantly. All other improvements are dependent on putting in place a system that can interact with the similar systems of other relevant agencies, especially the Court.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation will be implemented per the Chief Information Office's (CIO) response. The BOS defers to the CIO's response for implementation details.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.2

The County should develop an information system capable of receiving data and communications from the Court. It is imperative that these two systems communicate because a real time, interactive system will significantly decrease the time that inmates are held at the Inmate Reception Center (IRC).

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation will be implemented per the CIO's response. The BOS defers to the CIO's response for implementation details.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.3

Whether a new system is built in-house or contracted out, staff must be included in every step of the design, development, testing, and implementation. If staff needs are shortchanged, the project will suffer ongoing deficiencies, and the IRC will not see maximum improvement.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation will be implemented per the CIO's response. The BOS defers to the CIO's response for implementation details.



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



August 7, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORTS OF THE 2022-2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) response to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Report (CGJ) recommendations. The CGJ's areas of interest specific to the Department included:

- All Aboard: Is Metro Rail on Track (Attachment C)
- Have we M.E.T.? Mental Health Evaluation Team and How They Work (Attachment D)
- Sheriff's Operations: An Erosion of Trust. Examining Transparency, Accountability and Community Policing within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Attachment E)
- The Inmate Reception Center: An Outdated Process Imperils Staff, and the Justice System (Attachment F)

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Division Director Conrad Meredith, Administrative Services Division, at (213) 229-3310.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER (IRC)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.1

The entire AJIS system must be replaced with a modern information system that utilizes data integration techniques. This will provide SECURE, fast, accurate, and complete information for the staff and managers, and provide fair and timely treatment for the inmates. Until the information system is modernized, the IRC will not be able to improve its performance significantly. All other improvements are dependent on putting in place a system that can interact with the similar systems of other relevant agencies, especially the Court.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. On July 19, 2023, Data Systems Bureau (DSB) began working with "Syscon" in identifying the requirements of a new jail management platform.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.2

The County should develop an information system capable of receiving data and communications from the Court. It is imperative that these two systems communicate because a real time, interactive system will significantly decrease the time that inmates are held at the IRC.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. The courts will be implementing their new system (Odyssey) in early November 2023. It has been the plan of the Sheriff's DSB to be able to "link" the court's Odyssey system with the current AJIS system used by LASD. The plan is also for the new program being built by Syscon to communicate with the courts system. The anticipated implementation of the Syscon program is currently 24 months.

Rutherford provisions allow LASD to release newly remanded inmates on fractional time credits. If IRC had knowledge of the arrivals sentence and credits these fractional credits could be applied with a nexus to the inmate's arrival. If the inmate did not have any medical or mental health concerns, they could be expedited to the Release Area. The current paper driven system does not allow for quick identification of these inmates.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.3

Whether a new system is built in-house or contracted out, staff must be included in every step of the design, development, testing, and implementation. If staff needs are shortchanged, the project will suffer ongoing deficiencies, and the IRC will not see maximum improvement.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. DSB's Director Scott Goodwin has identified subject matter experts within IRC and facilitated meetings with "Syscon." The meetings allowed "Syscon" to learn the current IRC process from the end user and inquire what shortcomings exist.



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



July 21, 2023

The Honorable Samantha P. Jessner
Presiding Judge
Los Angeles County Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 W. Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Presiding Judge Jessner:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT
ON THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER**

Thank you for providing a copy of the Civil Grand Jury report entitled: "The Inmate Reception Center an Outdated Process Imperils Staff, Inmates, and the Justice Center." I thank the Civil Grand Jury for its work and dedication to public service, and their efforts in creating a meaningful report.

The Civil Grand Jury identified a significant issue in highlighting the overdue need to update the archaic technological system that currently exists in the Inmate Reception Center ("IRC"). The current system fails to address the needs of the Department, the inmates, and the justice system. Work proceeds so slowly that the system is referred to as the "Pony Express." The system inhibits the processing of newly arrived inmates and was, in part, responsible for recent litigation on delays in processing individuals at the IRC.

The Civil Grand Jury also correctly identified our reliance on the Automated Justice Information System ("AJIS") as outdated. While a project to upgrade our technology to modern standards will be costly, its cost is minimal compared to the expense involved with keeping the system in place. Thus, I concur that a modern robust information system is needed and is decades overdue. A modern jail management system would resolve many processing

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issues and the associated delays identified by the Civil Grand Jury. I understand the challenges the Department faces in the IRC and am committed to technological advancements to assist in solving these systemic problems.

Should you have any questions, please contact Division Director Eileen Decker, Office of Constitutional Policing, at (213) 229-3096.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Luna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF